

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for responding to an inquiry by an inquirer in exchange for an established resource over a communication network, said method comprising the steps of providing an inquiry by an inquirer that requires a response over the communication network,  
providing a response to the inquiry by a consultant over the communication network, and exchanging the resource between the consultant and the inquirer ~~for~~ in response to the consultant responding to the inquiry.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communications network comprises the internet.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing the resource exchanged between the consultant and the inquirer.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of establishing the resource comprises the step of establishing the resource by one of the consultant, the inquirer, and the provider.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of establishing the resource comprises the step of negotiating the resource between the inquirer and the consultant.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing a profile of the consultant or the inquirer.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of verifying the profile of the consultant.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of establishing a profile of the consultant or the inquirer, and verifying the profile of the consultant or the inquirer.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of matching a consultant with an inquirer based upon a pre-established profile of at least one of the consultant and the inquirer.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of establishing a profile of the consultant, and

matching the inquirer with the consultant based on the profile.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of  
establishing a profile of the consultant,  
establishing a profile of the inquirer, and  
matching the inquirer with the consultant based on the established profiles.
12. (Currently Amended) In a communications network having a client machine and a server, a method for responding to an inquiry by an inquirer in exchange for a resource, said method comprising the steps of  
providing an inquirer with access to the communications network to furnish an inquiry that requires a response,  
providing a consultant with access to the communication network for responding to the inquiry of the inquirer, and  
exchanging a resource between the consultant and the inquirer in response to the consultant~~for~~ responding to the inquiry.
13. (Currently Amended) A system for responding to an inquiry by an inquirer in exchange for an established resource, comprising  
an inquiry facility for providing an inquirer having an inquiry that requires a response,  
a consultant facility for providing a consultant for responding to the inquiry of the inquirer, and  
an exchange facility for exchanging a resource between the consultant and the inquirer in response to the consultant~~for~~ responding to the inquiry.
14. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising a communications network for allowing the consultant to respond to the inquiry.
15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the communications network comprises the internet.
16. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising means for establishing a profile of the consultant or the inquirer.
17. (Original) The system of claim 16, further comprising means for verifying the profile of the consultant.

18. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising means for allowing the inquirer to specify the profile of the consultant.
19. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising a matching facility for matching a consultant with an inquirer based upon a pre-established profile of at least one of the consultant and the inquirer.
20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said matching facility comprises  
means for establishing a profile of at least one of the consultant and the inquirer, and  
means for matching the inquirer with the consultant based on the profile.
21. (Currently Amended) In a communications network, a business method for responding to an inquiry by an inquirer in exchange for a resource in order to facilitate response to the inquiry, said method comprising the steps of  
accepting an inquiry from an inquirer that requires a response,  
allowing a consultant to respond to the inquiry of the inquirer, and  
providing for an exchange of the resource between the consultant and the inquirer in response to the consultant~~for responding to the inquiry~~.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of establishing the resource exchanged between the consultant and the inquirer.
23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of establishing the resource comprises the step of establishing the resource by at least one of the consultant, the inquirer, and the provider.
24. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of establishing a profile of at least one of the consultant and the inquirer.
25. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of verifying the profile of the consultant.
26. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of allowing the inquirer to specify the profile of the consultant.

27. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of matching a consultant with an inquirer based upon a pre-established profile of at least one of the consultant and the inquirer.

28. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of establishing a profile of at least one of the consultant and the inquirer, and matching the inquirer with the consultant based on the profile.